SC/ST vacancies in SBI

1394. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Departmental and Direct vacancies meant for SC/ ST candidates in State Bank of India;

(b) whether Associates Banks of SBI are also following the promotion policy of State Bank of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the percentage fixed in promotion from Assistant Manager (Computer) to Deputy Manager (Computer) in MM-II level in S.B.I, and its Associate Banks; and

(e) what percentage is fixed for direct vacancies in (d) above post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of direct recruitment and promotional vacancies of SC/STs in State Bank of India are as under:

Direct Recruitment:

SCs:218 STs:225

Departmental Promotion:

SCs:186 STs:143

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Associate Banks of State Bank of India are separate entities and have their own promotion policies.

(d) There is no reservation in promotion from Assistant Manager (Computer) to Deputy Manager (Computer).

(e) The percentage of reservation in direct recruitment of Assistant Manager (Computer) is 15% and $7^{1/2}$% for SCs and STs respectively.

Bank branches in rural areas

1395. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has not been able to ensure the opening up of more branches of banks in rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that .RBI has allowed a large number of branches of banks to close in rural areas during the last three years;

(c) whether RBI is encouraging the closure of branches of banks in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to review this policy of RBI to discourage banking habits in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM); (a) No, Sir. The RBI has reported that it follows a balanced approach of opening of new bank branches in rural and other areas and consolidation of existing branch network. Closure of the loss making branches at rural centres having a single commercial bank branch is not permitted. However, where centres are served by 2 or more commercial bank branches (excluding, the RRBs) closure/merger of one branch which is incurring losses is permitted, as a special case, only after obtaining prior approval of the District Consultative Committee (DCC). Besides, with a view to strengthen the banking activities in the rural areas it has laid a condition for all the new private sector banks that they are required to open a minimum of 25% of their total branches in rural/semi-urban areas at the time of issuing the licence to them. As on 31.3.2004,41 % of the public sector bank branches and 19% of the private sector bank branches were in rural centres. It has also further reported that, as against, the 120 rural branches closed/merged/converted, permission of opening of branches at 156 rural centres were issued during the last three years 2001-02 to 2003-04.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Unclaimed bank deposits

1396. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large amount is being used by the nationalized banks at present which belonged to the unclaimed savings bank account holders;